

## CIP EXPENSE DETAIL

**DATE OF COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:**  
**CONTACT DEPARTMENT(S):**

10/24/13  
WPD / ORES

**SUBJECT:**

Authorize the acquisition of a conservation easement consisting of approximately 732.57 acres of land located in Hays County, Texas, and fronting Ruby Ranch Road on Hwy 967, from the Jim and Jesse Ruby Family Partnership, Ltd., a Texas limited partnership, in a total amount not to exceed \$2,000,000 from the November 6, 2012, bond package, Proposition 13 Open Space Program.

**CURRENT YEAR IMPACT:**

| <b>Department:</b>     | <b>Watershed</b>      |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Project Name:          | Ruby CE               |
| Fund/Department/Unit:  | 8113 6307 A006        |
| Funding Source:        | 2012 Prop 13          |
| Current Appropriation: | 2,100,000.00          |
| Unencumbered Balance:  | 2,074,500.00          |
| Amount of This Action: | <u>(2,000,000.00)</u> |
| Remaining Balance:     | <u>74,500.00</u>      |

**ANALYSIS / ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

The City of Austin in partnership with Hill Country Conservancy (HCC) are leveraging funds to purchase a Conservation Easement (CE) from the Jim and Jessie Ruby Family Partnership, Ltd., a Texas limited partnership, the owners of a ranch consisting of approximately 732.57 acres known as Ruby Ranch. The Ruby Ranch is entirely in the Barton Springs Recharge Zone of the Edwards Aquifer and is located in Hays County, Texas along FM 967. The CE will protect a working ranch, preserve agricultural uses and significant natural areas, preserve open space, protect natural resources and maintain or enhance water quality. There are upland recharge features on the property and frontage along the Mustang Branch of Onion Creek and other tributaries of Onion Creek, all of which exist atop the recharge zone of the Barton Springs Segment of the Edwards Aquifer and provide a significant quality of high quantity water run-off and aquifer recharge. In addition, this CE is adjacent to the 2,254 acre Dahlstrom Ranch CE and the 133 acre Orr CE.